

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03921 161633 Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 T-03 OMB-01 GAC-01 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02

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R 161552 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3917
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR
CINCEUR
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER' S REMARKS ABOUT MISTREATMENT
OF BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ MEMBERS

1. ON MARCH 15 FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER ASKED ME TO
CALL ON HIM TODAY TO DISCUSS THE STATEMENT WHICH HE MADE THE
DAY BEFORE TO THE BUNDESTAG INTERIOR COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE
TREATMENT WHICH MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ (BGS) POLICE
RECEIVED FROM A US SPECIAL FORCES UNIT DURING JOINT MANUVERS
IN 1964. GENSCHER' S STATEMENT RECEIVED A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION
BY THE PRESS THE LAST FEW DAYS; AND ALTHOUGH IT IS AN OLD
MATTER, SOME OF THE PRESS REPORTING HAS BEEN SENSATIONALISTIC.

2. GENSCHER WAS VERY APOLOGETIC AND SAID THAT HE WANTED TO EXPLAIN
WHAT PROMPTED HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. NOTING THAT
HE WAS VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE AFFAIR, HE SAID THAT HE FEARED
THAT THE COMMITTEE ALREADY HAD RECORDS ABOUT THE ALLEGED MIS-
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PAGE 02 BONN 03921 161633 Z

TREATMENT AND THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD IN ANY CASE SHORTLY BE MADE PUBLIC. HE THOUGHT THAT HE COULD MINIMIZE DAMAGE IF HE PUT THE FACTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIS OWN TESTIMONY. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICE UNION (GEWERKSCHAFT DER POLIZEI) WERNER KUHLMANN MADE THE CHARGES THAT THE BGS HAD USED (AND IS STILL USING) ILLEGAL AND BRUTAL TRAINING METHODS WITH THE HELP OF US FORCES SOLELY AS A PERSONAL ATTACK UPON HIM AND THE BGS AS AN INSTITUTION. KUHLMANN HAS BEEN A LONG- TIME OPPONENT OF THE BGS AND HOPES TO UNDERMINE THE ORGANIZATION BY WIDELY PUBLICIZING THE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE NINE YEARS AGO. I SAID THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO REPORT HIS REMARKS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND USAREUR AND HOPED THE WHOLE MATTER WOULD BE A 24- HOUR WONDER.

3. COMMENT: GENSCHER' S TESTIMONY HAS RECEIVED FAIRLY WIDE COVERAGE BUT HAS STAYED OFF THE FRONT PAGES. AS I UNDERSTAND THE FACTS, BGS MEMBERS, ALL VOLUNTEERS, DID IN FACT PARTICIPATE IN A SPECIAL FORCE GROUP FIELD EXERCISE IN 1964. USAREUR HAS INFORMED US IT HAS NO RECORDS THAT UNAUTHORIZED OR INHUMANE INTERROGATION METHODS WERE USED. I HOPE THE MATTER WILL BLOW OVER AND BE FORGOTTEN IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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